

Appl. No. 09/870,567  
Amdt. Dated 12 July 2004  
Reply to Office action of 16 April 2004

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

#### **Status of Claims**

Claims 14-20 and 36-40 remain in this application. Claims 1-13, 21-35, and 41-49 have been canceled in prior amendments. Claims 14 and 36 have been rejected. Claims 15-20 and 37-40 are objected to for depending from a base rejected claim with the Office action indicating that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

#### **Request for Examiner to Initial Forms on Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant noted that neither IDS had been initialed and the present Office action is missing a PTO form 892 for the cited reference. Therefor Applicant has submitted herewith a new request for IDS consideration.

#### **Claim 14**

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC 102(e) over Witherspoon et al., US6356002 (hereinafter Witherspoon).

Applicant respectfully submits that Witherspoon does not teach or disclose the claim 14 recitations of (with emphasis added):

14. An assembly for transferring current, the assembly comprising:
  - at least one electrically conductive slip ring;
  - a plurality of electrically conductive brushes for supplying current to the at least one slip ring, each of the electrically conductive brushes being coupled through an electrical connection to a respective one of the electrically conductive brushes through a common electrical interface;
  - at least one electrically conductive lead coupled to the common electrical interface;
  - a plurality of inductors, each situated on a respective one of the electrical connections.

The last paragraph of Page 2 of the Office action states:

Witherspoon discloses (figs 21-b and 4a) ... a plurality of inductors (120, 130, 140) each inductor component situated on a respective one of the electrical connections.

Witherspoon, column 6, lines 12-13 state:

Refer now to FIGS. 4A and 4B which depict one of the brush block assemblies 62. The brush block assembly 62 is mounted on a printed circuit board 100. Because of the high circuit density of the electrical slip ring, the brush block 62 must also be formed with a high circuit density corresponding to the circuit density of the electrical slip ring 41. To accommodate the high circuit density, the printed circuit board is preferably formed of multiple layers (three layers 122, 132, 142 are depicted in FIG. 4B, although any number of layers can be used) of circuit boards each having circuit traces formed thereon. Advantageously, the use of multiple layers between each layer of circuit layers provides a ground plane between each layer of circuit layers. As depicted in FIG. 4A, there are three sets of circuit traces, each connected to a corresponding brush 80. A first set of circuit traces 120 (indicated by solid lines) is on a first layer 122, a second set of circuit traces 130 (indicated by long dashed lines) is on a second layer 124, and a third set of circuit traces 140 (indicated by short dashed lines) on a third layer 142 carries an electrical signal to/from connection points 150 on the printed circuit board 100 of the electrical slip ring apparatus 10 to/from a corresponding brush 80. The printed circuit boards are preferably formed of glass reinforced epoxy laminate (FR4) and are bonded together using an epoxy polyamide cement.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Office action's characterization of elements 120, 130, and 140 as

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"inductors." Instead these elements appear to be merely circuit "traces." Applicant recites "inductors" which are elements in addition to the normal electrical connections.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 defines allowable subject matter Witherspoon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested, and allowance of claim 14 is respectfully solicited.

#### Claim 36

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 36 under 35 USC 103(a) over Witherspoon in view of the level of ordinary skills of a worker in the art.

As described above, Witherspoon does not disclose a plurality of inductors, each situated on a respective one of the electrical connections. Applicant further submits that Witherspoon likewise does not teach, suggest, or disclose "situating a plurality of inductors, each on a respective one of the electrical connections." This is true whether or not someone of ordinary skill in the art, when seeing the structure of claim 14, would be able to determine a method for fabricating the structure.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36 defines allowable subject matter over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested, and allowance of claim 36 is respectfully solicited.

#### Objection to claims 15-20 and 37-40

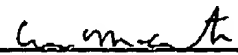
Claims 15-20 and 37-40 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because Applicant believes that independent claims 14 and 36 are allowable for the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 15-20 and 37-40 are allowable in their present condition.

#### Summary

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: IDS